

The Parish of Wellow

Luke 2:25-35 Walking closely with God Passage, Talk Notes and Questions

- God can also speak to us directly or through:
 - v. Other People
 - vi. Pictures
 - vii. Words of Knowledge
 - viii. Dreams
- How many of us in our busy lives actually spend time listening to God? How many of us spend time reading God's love letter the Bible? How many of us actually come to church on a Sunday to hear from God?

2.3 Simeon is willing to **WAIT** faithfully for God to fulfil his promises

- The Bible does not tell us when Simeon was given the promise that he would see Jesus, the son of God, but it does tell us that Simeon had been waiting for this promise to be fulfilled.
- We live in an instant age – many of our struggles with faith have to do with timing. We believe that God will keep his promises – but when? If we do not receive an answer as soon as we expect we are often tempted to doubt God and throw away our confidence.

2.4 Simeon is willing to **ACT** on God's instructions

- *'Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts.'* (2:27). Simeon is in such a close relationship with God that when he is told to act he does so immediately.
- Are we prepared to do the same thing? Is our relationship with God such that we can distinguish God's voice clearly and act accordingly.
- Are we fearful of stepping out in faith and acting on God's instructions with the result that actually we do nothing for fear of doing or saying something incorrectly.
- Is it not better to have stepped out in faith ten times and to have got it wrong once than to have never stepped out in faith.

3. Coffee 'n' Stickies Questions

3.1 If prayer is talking to God how does God talk to us?

3.2 'The hardest part of faith is often simply to wait. The trouble is, if we don't, then we start to fix the problem ourselves and make things worse. We complicate the situation to the point where it takes God much longer to fix it than if we had waited for his working in the first place.' Do you agree with this statement?

3.3 Why are we so unwilling to step out in faith when God prompts us to do so? How might we get better?

Matthew Street 7th January 2007

Please feel free to take these talk notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during this week to consider the questions below or join us at **Coffee 'n' Stickies** on Monday 8th January 7.30-9.30pm at 51 Under Knoll, PSJ (Call Jennifer Cole 01761 437768 for directions) to discuss the questions further.

1. Talk Passage – Luke 2:25-35 (Page 1080 in the pew Bibles)

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,

28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace.

30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the sight of all people,

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

33 The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him.

34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,

35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

2. Talk Notes

2.1 Simeon has a close relationship with God, Luke says he was: *'righteous and devout and the Holy Spirit was upon him.'* (2:25). From Luke's description of Simeon we learn that he was a man who walked closely with God. Simeon was willing to:

- LISTEN** to God.
- WAIT** faithfully for God to fulfil his promises
- ACT** on God's instructions.

2.2 Simeon is willing to **LISTEN** to God

- God has clearly spoken to Simeon and told him that he will see *'the consolation of Israel'* (2:25) or *'the Lord's Christ'* (2:26) before he dies. But how does Simeon know this unless he is listening to God.
- Many people today ask 'How does God speak to us?'
- God speaks to us in many ways but the primary way is through the Bible – 'God's love letter to each one of us'

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